

Date of most recent action: May 31, 2008

## The Antarctic Treaty

Done: Washington; December 1, 1959

Entry into force: June 23, 1961

In accordance with Article XIII, the Treaty was subject to ratification by the signatory States and is open for accession by any State which is a Member of the United Nations, or by any other State which may be invited to accede to the Treaty with the consent of all the Contracting Parties whose representatives are entitled to participate in the meetings provided for under Article IX of the Treaty; instruments of ratification and instruments of accession shall be deposited with the Government of the United States of America. Upon the deposit of instruments of ratification by all the signatory States, the Treaty entered into force for those States and for States which had deposited instruments of accession to the Treaty. Thereafter, the Treaty enters into force for any acceding State upon deposit of its instrument of accession.

**Legend:** (no mark) = ratification; **a** = accession; **d** = succession; **w** = withdrawal or equivalent action

Participant	Signature	Consent to be bound		Other Action	Notes
Argentina	December 1, 1959	June 23, 1961			
Australia	December 1, 1959	June 23, 1961			
Austria		August 25, 1987	<b>a</b>		
Belarus		December 27, 2006	<b>a</b>		
Belgium	December 1, 1959	July 26, 1960			
Brazil		May 16, 1975	<b>a</b>		
Bulgaria		September 11, 1978	<b>a</b>		
Canada		May 4, 1988	<b>a</b>		
Chile	December 1, 1959	June 23, 1961			
China		June 8, 1983	<b>a</b>		
Colombia		January 31, 1989	<b>a</b>		
Cuba		August 16, 1984	<b>a</b>		
Czech Republic		January 1, 1993	<b>d</b>		<sup>1</sup>
Denmark		May 20, 1965	<b>a</b>		
Ecuador		September 15, 1987	<b>a</b>		
Estonia		May 17, 2001	<b>a</b>		
Finland		May 15, 1984	<b>a</b>		
France	December 1, 1959	September 16, 1960			
Germany		February 5, 1979	<b>a</b>		<sup>2</sup>
Greece		January 8, 1987	<b>a</b>		
Guatemala		July 31, 1991	<b>a</b>		
Hungary		January 27, 1984	<b>a</b>		
India		August 19, 1983	<b>a</b>		

Italy		March 18, 1981	<b>a</b>		
Japan	December 1, 1959	August 4, 1960			
Korea (DPRK)		January 21, 1987	<b>a</b>		
Korea (ROK)		November 28, 1986	<b>a</b>		
Monaco		May 31, 2008	<b>a</b>		
Netherlands		March 30, 1967	<b>a</b>		3
New Zealand	December 1, 1959	November 1, 1960			
Norway	December 1, 1959	August 24, 1960			
Papua New Guinea		March 16, 1981	<b>d</b>		4
Peru		April 10, 1981	<b>a</b>		
Poland		June 8, 1961	<b>a</b>		
Romania		September 15, 1971	<b>a</b>		5
Russian Federation	December 1, 1959	November 2, 1960			6
Slovak Republic		January 1, 1993	<b>d</b>		7
South Africa	December 1, 1959	June 21, 1960			
Spain		March 31, 1982	<b>a</b>		
Sweden		April 24, 1984	<b>a</b>		
Switzerland		November 15, 1990	<b>a</b>		
Turkey		January 24, 1996	<b>a</b>		
Ukraine		October 28, 1992	<b>a</b>		
United Kingdom	December 1, 1959	May 31, 1960			
United States	December 1, 1959	August 18, 1960			
Uruguay		January 11, 1980	<b>a</b>		8
Venezuela		March 24, 1999	<b>a</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Effective date of succession by the Czech Republic. Czechoslovakia deposited an instrument of accession to the Treaty on June 14, 1962. On December 31, 1992, at midnight, Czechoslovakia ceased to exist and was succeeded by two separate and independent states, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

<sup>2</sup> The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Washington transmitted to the Department of State a diplomatic note, dated October 2, 1990, which reads as follows:

“The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany presents its compliments to the Department of State and has the honor to inform the Government of the United States of America as the depositary Government of the Antarctic Treaty that, through the accession of the German Democratic Republic to the Federal Republic of Germany with effect from October 3, 1990, the two German states will unite to form one sovereign state which, as a contracting party to the Antarctic Treaty, will remain bound by the provisions of the Treaty and subject to those recommendations adopted at the 15 consultative meetings which the Federal Republic of Germany has approved. From the date of German unity, the Federal Republic of Germany will act under the designation of “Germany” within the framework of the [A]ntarctic system.

“The Embassy would be grateful if the Government of the United States of America could inform all contracting parties to the Antarctic Treaty of the contents of this note.

“The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Department of State the assurances of its highest consideration.”

Prior to unification, the German Democratic Republic deposited an instrument of accession to the Treaty, accompanied by a declaration, on November 19, 1974, and the Federal Republic of Germany deposited an instrument of accession to the Treaty, accompanied by a statement, on February 5, 1979.

---

<sup>3</sup> The instrument of accession to the Treaty by the Netherlands states that the accession is for the Kingdom in Europe, Suriname and the Netherlands Antilles; as of January 1, 1986, Aruba as a separate entity.

<sup>4</sup> Date of deposit of notification of succession by Papua New Guinea; effective September 16, 1975, the date of its independence.

<sup>5</sup> The instrument of accession to the Treaty by Romania was accompanied by a note of the Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the United States of America, dated September 15, 1971, which reads as follows:

“Dear Mr. Secretary:

“Submitting the instrument of adhesion of the Socialist Republic of Romania to the Antarctic Treaty, signed at Washington on December 1, 1959, I have the honor to inform you of the following:

‘The Council of State of the Socialist Republic of Romania states that the provisions of the first paragraph of the article XIII of the Antarctic Treaty are not in accordance with the principle according to which the multilateral treaties whose object and purposes are concerning the international community, as a whole, should be opened for universal participation.’

“I am kindly requesting you, Mr. Secretary, to forward to all parties concerned the text of the Romanian instrument of adhesion to the Antarctic Treaty, as well as the text of this letter containing the above mentioned statement of the Romanian Government.

“I avail myself of this opportunity to renew to you, Mr. Secretary, the assurances of my highest consideration.”

Copies of the Ambassador’s letter and the Romanian instrument of accession to the Treaty were transmitted to the Antarctic Treaty parties by the Secretary of State’s circular note dated October 1, 1971.

<sup>6</sup> The Treaty was signed and ratified by the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics. By a note dated January 13, 1992, the Russian Federation informed the United States Government that it “continues to perform the rights and fulfil the obligations following from the international agreements signed by the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.”

<sup>7</sup> Effective date of succession by the Slovak Republic. Czechoslovakia deposited an instrument of accession to the Treaty on June 14, 1962. On December 31, 1992, at midnight, Czechoslovakia ceased to exist and was succeeded by two separate and independent states, the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic.

<sup>8</sup> The instrument of accession to the Treaty by Uruguay was accompanied by a declaration, a Department of State English translation of which reads as follows:

“The Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay considers that, through its accession to the Antarctic Treaty signed at Washington (United States of America) on December 1, 1959, it helps to affirm the principles of using Antarctica exclusively for peaceful purposes, of prohibiting any nuclear explosion or radioactive waste disposal in this area, of freedom of scientific research in Antarctica in the service of mankind, and of international cooperation to achieve these objectives, which are established in said Treaty.

“Within the context of these principles Uruguay proposes, through a procedure based on the principle of legal equality, the establishment of a general and definitive statute on Antarctica in which, respecting the rights of States as recognized in international law, the interests of all States involved and of the international community as a whole would be considered equitably.

“The decision of the Uruguayan Government to accede to the Antarctic Treaty is based not only on the interest which, like all members of the international community, Uruguay has in Antarctica, but also on a special, direct, and substantial interest which arises from its geographic location, from the fact that its Atlantic coastline faces the continent of Antarctica, from the resultant influence upon its climate, ecology, and marine biology, from the historic bonds which date back to the first expeditions which ventured to explore that continent and its waters, and also from the obligations assumed in conformity with the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance which includes a portion of Antarctic territory in the zone described in Article 4, by virtue of which Uruguay shares the responsibility of defending the region.

“In communicating its decision to accede to the Antarctic Treaty, the Government of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay declares that it reserves its rights in Antarctica in accordance with international law.”